

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments to the Claims

This Amendment and Reply is intended to be completely responsive to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2010. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 152 and 171 are currently amended. Claim 170 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 152-169 and 171-173 will remain pending in the present application upon entry of this amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the aforementioned Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 152-169 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns (US 6,298,498) in view of L'Abbe (US 4,475,248).

The Examiner has further indicated that claims 170-173 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration of the application and indication of allowable claims. By way of this amendment, applicant has amended independent claim 152 to include all the limitations of claim 170, and respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that neither Burns nor L'Abbe discloses or renders obvious a head protection system that includes the locking means as presently defined in claim 152, and indicated to be allowable by the Examiner in the aforementioned Office Action.

Closing Remarks

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending rejection and objection has been overcome, and that the present Application is in a condition for allowance. In particular, even when the elements of Applicants' claims are given a broad construction and interpreted to cover equivalents, the references of record do not teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-4035. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-4035.

Respectfully submitted

Date: May 4, 2010

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